



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# Women's Leadership Conference

*Dare to be...*

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**



## **ERIKA BRECHTEL**

*CO-FOUNDER, MAVENS TV  
BRAND DESIGNER,  
ERIKABRECHTEL.COM*

For the past 14 years, Erika Brechtel has developed unique brand identities for international clients through digital and print design, and photography art direction and styling. Featured in *SELF Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, *Refinery 29*, *The Everygirl*, *Glitter Guide*, *Adore Home*, *The OC Register*, and *OC Family*, Erika also leads an editorial team to provide highly-curated and original lifestyle content on 'The E List' at [erikabrechtel.com](http://erikabrechtel.com).

Erika originally hails from the North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii, and received a magna cum laude degree at UCLA while playing collegiate women's soccer. Through years lived in Santa Monica, New York City, the Bay Area, and now Orange County, California, giving back to her community has been a fundamental part of her life, volunteering for organizations such as the UCLA Watts Tutorial Program, L.A. Works, NYC's Lower East Side Girls Club, Project SOAR in Marrakech, and recently on the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Orange County, California (JLOCC).

Erika maintains her well-being through quality time with friends and family, being mom to an energetic and inquisitive 7 year-old girl, cooking, reading, art, travel, and lots of meditation, yoga and spin.



## **COREY CASTILLO, ED.D.**

*EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT &  
PERFORMANCE LEADER*

*DIRECTOR OF MAJOR ACCOUNTS  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles*

Corey began his career as a Personal Trainer, while pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Movement & Sports Science. Within a few years, he fulfilled his first management role overseeing a group of 5 fitness professionals. When observing the reasons behind the collective success, and failures, that he, and his team, were experiencing, Corey began to better understand that every organization essentially performs within the pillars of *people, process, and product*, directed by managers and led by leaders- two very different roles for very different needs. He continued to study and practice the fundamentals of management and leadership, within various teams and arenas, consistently learning about how teams deliver upon set missions. While leading initiatives between 5 and 1,500 team members across various markets, Corey further grew his leadership skills while pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership. After successfully delivering upon over 20 major assignments within the private sector arena, he transitioned his career to operate within Corporate Philanthropy, joining one of the world's largest nonprofit organizations. He is currently overseeing a development/fundraising team, managing the top/highest-revenue corporate accounts for his organization.

Corey believes that all organizations perform under the fundamental pillars of *people, process, and product*, in which "leadership is the key ingredient in equipping the people to execute the process that delivers the product." Organizations will naturally decompose, as no group of people will ever naturally find a congruent path towards a set vision. It's leadership that keeps them together to perform and deliver upon a set mission. Corey believes in the fundamentals of *focus, transparency, alignment, accountability, and decisive action*. With respect to these fundamentals, a leader's responsibility to his/her team, and those they serve, is to *own* them by consistently *earning the right* to enforce them. Leadership is not a formal role. It is a right that must be renewed each day.



**LISA M. GARRETT**

*DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL  
County of Los Angeles*

On March 30, 2010, Lisa M. Garrett was appointed as Director of Personnel for the County of Los Angeles after serving as Acting Director of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) for nearly one year. Ms. Garrett is a career public servant and has worked in both the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Garrett was hired into the County in 1994 as a Deputy District Attorney in the District Attorney's Bureau of Family Support Operations. Seven years later, she moved to the Child Support Services Department, where she served as Assistant Division Chief in two large divisions, the Executive Assistant to the Director, and as the Chief Deputy Director and Chief Attorney before being appointed as Acting Director of Personnel. During her tenure in DHR, Ms. Garrett has guided the implementation of many significant initiatives to strengthen the County's workforce, improve customer service and access, and "automate all things HR." Ms. Garrett is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles with a major in Psychology, and also holds a Juris Doctorate from the Southwestern University School of Law and a MBA from Pepperdine University. Ms. Garrett is designated as an IPMA-HR Certified Professional and holds a certificate in Advanced HR Management from the UCLA Anderson School of Management Executive Program.



## **LINDA GRIEGO**

*ENTREPRENEUR, BUSINESS OWNER,  
AND FORMER LOS ANGELES DEPUTY  
MAYOR*

Ms. Griego is an entrepreneur, successful business owner and former Los Angeles deputy mayor. Her career encompasses civic leadership, business management and government service.

She has served, since 1986, as president and chief executive officer of Griego Enterprises, Inc., a business management company. Ms. Griego was responsible for the development and historical renovation of an abandon 1912 firehouse into offices and a prominent downtown restaurant, Engine Co. No. 28. She oversaw the operations of the restaurant for more than 22 years. She has also developed pilot television programming aimed at the young Latino market. Her most recent ventures include the opening of Etchea Bakery & Café on Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles; and operating the Oso Lodge in northern New Mexico.

From 1990 until 2000, Ms. Griego held a number of government-related appointments, including deputy mayor of the city of Los Angeles in the Tom Bradley Administration, president and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles Community Development Bank, and president and chief executive officer of Rebuild LA, the agency created to focus on inner-city economic development following the 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest. For more than three decades, she has served on several government commissions, blue ribbon committees and boards of directors of local and national nonprofit organizations, including current service on the boards of the MLK Health and Wellness Community Development Corporation which she chairs, the Community Development Technology Center (CDTech), a successor to Rebuild LA; and the Art Center College of Design. She is a trustee of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. She served as a trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital Foundation. She also served as a Los Angeles director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

For twenty years, Ms. Griego has served as a director of publicly-traded and private corporations, including current service on the boards of directors of CBS Corporation, AECOM Technology Corporation and American Funds.

Ms. Griego holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from UCLA. In 2008, she was awarded the UCLA Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the university. She is a former senior fellow of the UCLA School of Public Policy, former director of the Chicano Studies Research Center Advisory Board; and currently serves on the UCLA Women's Health Center Advisory Board.

Born and raised in New Mexico, Ms. Griego comes from Mexican-American family of bakers and railroad workers. Following graduation from high school, she moved to Washington, D. C. to work for her hometown Congressman and later for U.S. Senator Alan Cranston of California. She also worked for Pacific Bell supervising installation and repair crews in Los Angeles County.





## **SACHI A. HAMAI**

*CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
County of Los Angeles*

On October 13, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously selected Sachi A. Hamai as the County's Chief Executive Officer. She is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the nation's largest municipal government, including oversight of the County's \$28 billion budget. As CEO, she also supports the Board's policy and programmatic leadership on numerous health, social services, criminal justice and quality of life programs and services.

Before her selection as Chief Executive Officer, Sachi served 10 months as the Interim CEO, selected by the Board of Supervisors in December 2014. Previously, Sachi was the Executive Officer for the Board of Supervisors from April 2006 to December 2014, supporting the accounting, procurement, personnel, payroll, technology, facility management and other administrative services of the Board.

Sachi was raised in Denver with her sisters Judy and Tami, and parents Thomas and Barbara Hamai. She attended Colorado State University and graduated in May 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in accountancy. Soon after graduation, Sachi was recruited to join the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller's department as an accountant-auditor in August 1988.

For the next several years, she held several positions in Auditor-Controller, supervising the operational, compliance, and financial reviews of many County departments, until her promotion to a management position with the Department of Health Services Inspection and Audit Team in November 1994. As Chief of the Audit and Compliance Division, Sachi developed and implemented the groundbreaking Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT), a multi-agency program to deter illegal criminal activities threatening the public's health and well-being. Since its inception, HALT has conducted thousands of investigations, resulting in

hundreds of arrests, confiscating millions of dollars in illegal drugs, and saving taxpayers millions of dollars in Medi-Cal funds.

From 2001, until her appointment as the Board's Executive Officer in 2006, Sachi was the Director of Administrative Services at the County's Department of Health Services, supervising the human resources, information technology, facilities management, and audit and compliance offices in the nation's second-largest public healthcare system.

Sachi is a passionate distance runner, completing her first marathon in St. George, Utah in 1997. She's participated in nearly 40 races in the past five years, from 5k's, to stair climbs, to marathons in Florida, Illinois, Nevada, and British Columbia, achieving a recent a personal best time in the 2015 Tokyo Marathon.





## **SURINA KHAN**

*CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Women's Foundation of California*

Surina Khan is CEO of the Women's Foundation of California. For more than two decades, Surina has been a leader in the philanthropic and non-profit social justice sector starting with local community-based publishing in New England and then shifting to national and global work on an array of social justice issues including women's rights, LGBT rights, human rights and more.

Before being appointed CEO in 2014, Surina served as a Director in the Democracy Rights and Justice Program at the Ford Foundation where she shaped more than \$30 million in annual grantmaking around the world to expand rights for women, LGBT people, people living with HIV/AIDS, and in the area of strengthening democratic participation and governance.

Before joining Ford in 2011, Surina spent six years at the Women's Foundation of California, serving as Vice President of Programs and providing strategic direction for grant making, strengthening the organizational effectiveness of social justice organizations and overseeing the Women's Policy Institute, a policy advocacy training program for community-based leaders.

She previously served as executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, where she worked to advance the human rights of LGBT people and people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. Earlier in her career, Surina was a research analyst for Political Research Associates, conducting groundbreaking research on the Right's attacks on women and LGBT people.

She currently serves on the Boards of Alliance for Justice, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, and OutRight Action International (formerly the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission). Surina is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Campaign for College Opportunity, the Ambassador Council for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, and a member of the Public Policy Committee for Southern California Grantmakers. She previously served on the boards of directors with numerous organizations including Funders for Population, Reproductive Health and Rights, Political Research Associates, and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. Her writing and research have been published widely in print and online publications.

See more at: <http://womensfoundca.org/staff/surina-khan#sthash.AeWFZYva.dpuf>



## **BETTY PORTO**

*VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

*Porto's Bakery*

Betty Porto was born in Cuba and migrated with her family to California in 1971. Her mother opened a business shortly after arriving and Betty and her siblings worked there after school every day throughout high school and college.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in 1980 from Cal State LA and received her Master's degree in Political Science in 1982 from UCLA. Once she graduated, she focused on helping with the expansion of her family's business and settled into her role as Vice-President and Director of Community Relations.

Today, Betty has the pleasure of working alongside hundreds of local organizations such as the Los Angeles Union Rescue Mission, The Boys and Girls Club of Burbank, Glendale Healthy Kids, and the Food Help Program of Downey, to name a few.

She is also an advisor on the Glendale Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Program Committee, a panelist for Glendale Community College Culinary Program, and a member of the Glendale Arts Advisory Board.

In 2005, Betty was named Latin Business Woman of the Year by The National Latin Business Women Association. That same year, Porto's Bakery was named the Nations Retail Bakery of the Year by the prestigious Modern Baking Magazine and Business of the year by the Glendale Kiwanis Club in 2007. In 2008, the Glendale Latino Association named Betty Woman of the Year and in 2011 the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce also named her Woman of the Year. The Glendale Chamber of Commerce celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by naming Porto's Bakery business of the year for 2011. Most recently, Porto's Bakery was ranked first nationwide on Yelp's Top 100 List of Restaurants.



## **NOELIA RODRIGUEZ**

*MANAGING DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
Port of Long Beach*

Noelia Rodriguez was named managing director for communications and government relations at the Port of Long Beach in July of 2015. She joined the nation's second largest port from LA Metro where she served as the agency's chief communications executive.

Previously, she was director of the prestigious John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum, Harvard University's premier arena for political speech and debate, where she regularly hosted world leaders, heads of state, elected officials, plus Alec Baldwin (before he gained huge acclaim portraying Donald Trump). Noelia initially was recruited by Harvard to serve as a fellow in-residence at the Kennedy School's Institute of Politics for the fall 2007 semester.

Noelia began her corporate communications career at Southern California Edison. In 1994, she was drafted by Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan to serve as his press secretary, and was later promoted to deputy mayor. In 2000, Mayor Riordan appointed Noelia to serve as president and CEO of LA 2000, the host committee for the Democratic National Convention, LA's first political convention since President Kennedy's nomination in 1960.

First Lady Laura Bush recruited Noelia to serve as her first White House Press Secretary and Director of Communications. Ultimately, Noelia was Mrs. Bush's longest-serving White House spokesperson. As part of the President's executive staff, Noelia identified, initiated and implemented media and PR strategies that elevated the First Lady's domestic and international presence, particularly in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Though she is a native Texan, Noelia is still searching for the perfect pair of cowboy boots. Preferably, with the perfect cowboy in them.



## **SOUZANE TACAWY, ED.D.**

*SENIOR MANAGER*  
*Boeing*

Souzane has over 33 years of experience at a Major SoCal Aerospace Company in engineering and leadership positions on Military, Space and Commercial aerospace programs. She has broad experience in: Program/project leadership; Line Management; Organizational/Employee Development; Facilitation/instruction; Technical & Industry liaison; Her ample background includes leadership in support of implementing strategies across the So Cal region.

Souzane is also an Adjunct Professor teaching doctoral students Quality Management and Leadership courses, serves as a dissertation chair, and as oral defense committee member.

Souzane holds a doctorate degree in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine, MS in Engineering Management from West Coast University, and a BSME from CSU-Los Angeles.

Throughout her career, Souzane has earned numerous awards and recognition for her achievements and success.

- The Engineers' Council Engineering Distinguished Engineer Achievement Award, Feb 2016
- HR Service Excellence Award, August 2011
- UAHuntsville Employee Development Award, July 2009
- 2007 Global Diversity Change Agent Award Winner, January 2007
- 26<sup>th</sup> YWCA Leadership Achievement Award, 2000.
- Engineering Personality of the Month, April 1999
- Amelia Earhart Society Women of Achievement Award, 1996 and 1989

Souzane is passionate about mentoring and coaching others and sharing her own experiences and her passion for personal development, promoting diversity and positive cultural change to improve organizational effectiveness. She chose to do her doctorate dissertation on Upward

Mobility of Females in Aerospace to learn more about what women in leadership did to attain their positions. Her presentations include:

- “Achieving & Leveraging Diversity” briefing, Global Diversity & EEO Compliance Summit, January 2007
- “Upward Mobility of Females in Aerospace” Paper, 2006 SWE National Conference, October 2006
- Co-presented at the Performance Plus Workshop, WESTEC Professional Development Conference, Los Angeles, March, 2004

Souzane enjoys reading and indulges her love of learning by volunteering and serving on different boards:

- California State University, Los Angeles Mechanical Engineering Industry Advisory Board Member- 2011-Present
- St Cyril Orthodox Church Board of Directors, 2007-2015
- Amelia Earhart Society, Director of Education, 2007-2012
- Embry-Riddle Upward Bound & Math/Science Mentor, 2005-2008
- SAE SoCal Governing Board: Vice Chair of Air and Space, 1995-1996, 1998-2000 and VC of membership 1996-1997

She attributes her success to the on-going encouragement and support of her family and friends.



## **AURA VASQUEZ**

*ACTIVIST AND DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE JUSTICE*

*Center for Popular Democracy*

A native of Colombia, Aura Vasquez is an organizer, advocate, and activist for environmental and social justice issues. She has dedicated her life to working in matters concerning frontline communities and Climate Justice. From helping ban the single-use of plastic bags in California, to supporting the pass of the Clean Power Plan, Aura has spirit headed the Climate Movement in disadvantaged communities. Some of her most proud accomplishments are working alongside Mayor Villaraigosa's administration and the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign to ensure a coal-free LA by 2025. She presently works as the Climate Justice Director for the Center for Popular Democracy where she leads over 14 organizations in 10 different states to work on national climate issues.

Aura is currently serving as a board member of Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. She was previously a Political advisor in New York City Congressman Eliot Engel's office and where she received a degree in Political Science from The City University New York- Lehman. She recently graduated from Leadership, Organizing and Action from the Harvard Kennedy school and founded her consulting firm. In her free time, Aura attends Against the Stream Buddhism Society where she practices Vipassana. She enjoys dancing and is involved in the art scene in LA.





## **MARGALIT WARD**

*DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL  
WOMEN'S NETWORK SO CAL AND  
CO-FOUNDER OF GET UP GIRL  
WOMEN'S COACHING*

Margalit Ward is a Certified Empowerment & Executive Coach, Speaker, Director of the Professional Women's Network So Cal, and Co-Founder of Get Up Girl Women's Coaching. Margalit started and grew two successful digital design and printing companies serving clients in various industries including: Hilton Hotels Corporation, Disney and Warner Brothers Studios. She completed her coaching certification from the Institute of Professional Excellence in Coaching, and is a graduate of Counseling Psychology from the University of Santa Monica, and completed six years of study in Spiritual Science from Peace Theological Seminary. She supports her clients to overcome obstacles, dream big and define their vision, map out their goals and action plans to create unstoppable success. Her approach includes establishing a solid foundation of self-care that helps her clients thrive both personally and professionally.

Throughout the year she also facilitates workshops for teens and parents at LAUSD High Schools for the EduCare Foundation. She's passionate about empowering young adults and supports their mission, to inspire and empower young people to become responsible citizens, compassionate leaders, and live their dreams.

Margalit is a contributor for the Huffington Post, and enjoys exploring her native Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband, son, and dog Sadie.

[www.margalitward.com](http://www.margalitward.com) | @MargalitWard



## **NICHOL WHITEMAN**

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation*

Nichol Whiteman is Executive Director of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) where she oversees the team's official charity. With over ten years of nonprofit leadership experience, Whiteman oversees operations, programs, charitable giving and fundraising. Upon joining LADF in 2013, Whiteman led efforts to rebrand and restructure LADF, an organization that today operates significant programs that serve thousands of underserved youth in Los Angeles, grants over \$1million annually to local nonprofits and raises significant funds to support its efforts. Under Whiteman's leadership LADF has launched Dodgers RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) a youth baseball and softball program serving 6,000 youth, held its Inaugural Blue Diamond Gala, increased its budget by 81%, grown its strategic partnerships and become significantly visible to the Dodger fans.

Prior to joining LADF, Whiteman served as Executive Director of College Summit's California region. Additionally, her previous positions include Vice President, Development and Communications for LA's Promise, VP/Western Region Officer for the Jackie Robinson Foundation , Director of Group Sales and Sponsorship for the Earl Graves Publishing Company/Black Enterprise Magazine as, Manager of Sales Promotions and Merchandising for Essence Magazine and Investment Management Analyst at J.P. Morgan Chase.

Whiteman earned a degree in Economics from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1998. She has since been named Spelman Class of 1998 Businesswoman of the Year, earned the 2005 LEAD Program in Business Leaders of Tomorrow Award, in 2010 was honored as Woman of Inspiration Honoree by The Wave and in 2015 was honored by the National Urban League Young Professionals of Los Angeles. Whiteman is a proud alumna of programs to include the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the LEAD Program in Business, and the United Negro College Fund.

Education is a top priority for Whiteman and she is very active in the community. She has served in numerous capacities to include the Executive Leadership Team of the 2012 American Heart Association Go Red Campaign; the advisory board of the Black Enterprise Woman of Power Conference; the advisory board of College Summit Southern California and the Board of Directors for the IDefine Foundation. She currently serves on the advisory boards of Covington Capital, A Better Chance, Inc., New Teacher Center, and The Positive Results Corporation. Additionally she sits on the board of Positive Coaching Alliance and is a member of the Women's Leadership Council.

Whiteman's family immigrated to New York City from Jamaica. She earned a scholarship to attend a boarding high school in Connecticut where she excelled in soccer and caught the attention of acclaimed scholarship organizations. She currently resides in Inglewood with her husband Timothy and their two young sons Timothy Jr. and Nicholas.



## **KALIKA NACION YAP**

*CO-FOUNDER, MAVENS TV  
CEO, CITRUS STUDIOS*

Kalika Yap is a thriving serial (concurrent) entrepreneur whose businesses include award-winning brand agency Citrus Studios, Luxe Link, the Waxing Co., the Tangerine Co. & the Lemonade Stand. Her companies have been featured in publications such as Entrepreneur, The Huffington Post, The Today Show and MSNBC.

A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Kalika started out working as a journalist for CNBC and Bloomberg after graduating from NYU, before making the move to the West Coast — the first step on her continuous entrepreneurial journey.

But Kalika defines success not just by her businesses' bottom line. Her time at the J Paul Getty Trust infused in her the importance of giving back. She integrates the value-based culture of philanthropy within all her business units and has been an active member of key entrepreneur groups such as Entrepreneur's Organization and the National Association of Women Business Owners. She has been honored by the Anti-Defamation League as well as Farmers Insurance, HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality), and the California Latino Legislative Caucus.

As devoted as she is to her businesses, Kalika's husband Rodney Yap and their two daughters Malia and Kailani are her greatest treasure and she loves spending her off time with them in their home in Santa Monica.



## **AMY ZIERING**

### ***OSCAR-NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER***

Amy Ziering is a two-time Emmy Award–winning and Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmaker.

Her most recent film, *THE HUNTING GROUND*— a piercing, monumental exposé of rape culture on college campuses— premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival, was released by Radius/The Weinstein Company and CNN, is the 2016 recipient of the Producer Guild of America’s Stanley Kramer award, and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Her previous film, *THE INVISIBLE WAR*, a groundbreaking investigation into the epidemic of rape in the U.S. military, won the Audience Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, won two 2014 Emmy Awards for Best Documentary and Outstanding Investigative Journalism and was nominated for an Oscar. The film spurred Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to announce significant policy changes and catalyzed the passing of 35 pieces of reform legislation.

She is also the Producer of *OUTRAGE*— an indictment of the hypocrisy of powerful, closeted politicians and the institutions that protect them, which received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Investigative Journalism. Ziering also co-directed and produced *DERRIDA*, a documentary about the world-renowned French philosopher.

She is the 2012 recipient of the Nestor Almendros Prize for Courage and Filmmaking, the 2013 Ridenhour Documentary Film Prize, the 2013 Gracie Award for Outstanding Producer - News/Non-Fiction and the 2013 Peabody Award. Ziering has worked with musical artists such as Academy Award winning composer, Ryuichi Sakamoto; Grammy award winner, Mary J. Blige; eight time Academy Award nominated songwriter, Diane Warren; and global superstar, Lady Gaga.



## SUSAN ZIRINSKY

*SENIOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
48 HOURS*

Susan Zirinsky is the senior executive producer of the award-winning crime and justice series 48 HOURS.

Zirinsky's work and programs have earned virtually every major journalism honor including multiple Emmy Awards, a George Foster Peabody award, the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence, the Christopher Award, The Writers Guild of America award and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award. And in 2013 she was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Festivals International Television & Film Awards.

Most recently Zirinsky was the executive producer of the critically acclaimed SHOWTIME/CBS documentary THE SPYMASTERS – CIA IN THE CROSSHAIRS. In THE SPYMASTERS, for the first time ever, all twelve living CIA directors give in-depth interviews, sharing their insights and secrets about the agency's mission, its contentious past and its future. Their sharp disagreements with one another reveal nothing less than a battle for the soul of the CIA. Tragically timely, just after the devastating ISIS attacks in Paris, THE SPYMASTERS aired to critical acclaim, and sparked an international conversation – among top government policymakers and ordinary citizens alike - about the rules of engagement for intelligence agencies. *Newsweek* called the film "the closest we're going to get to a televised 'Truth & Reconciliation' Commission." *The Daily News* described it as "an existential battle for the CIA's soul."

Since joining CBS News as a part-time production clerk in 1972, Zirinsky has worked for a variety of CBS News broadcasts and covered national and global news, several presidents, wars, international conflicts, the Olympics and the world of fashion. She also is responsible for the oversight of CBSNews.com's crime blog, "Crimesider."



In addition to 48 HOURS, Zirinsky was the senior executive producer of the 2013 documentary series, BROOKLYN DA, and serves as the senior executive producer for breaking news specials for CBS News, Most recently the terrorist attack in Paris. Other prime time special include those done in the aftermath of a movie theater shooting in Aurora Colo., the elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn., and the Boston Marathon bombings.

Zirinsky was the co-executive producer of two "Person to Person" interview specials; she executive produced "David Letterman: A Life on Television"; she produced "The Grammys Will GO On: A Death in The Family", a documentary about the Grammys and the night Whitney Houston died, and "Vanity Fair's Hollywood."

Previously, she was an executive producer of CBS News' award-winning broadcast "9/11" - a documentary on the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that included the only footage of the first plane going into the north tower of the World Trade Center and of activity inside the Trade Center before the towers fell. The documentary has been updated for the first, fifth and tenth anniversaries.

Zirinsky has also produced such primetime specials as "The Royal Wedding: Modern Majesty"; "Fashion's Night Out" with Vogue and Editor Anna Wintour; that included a two hour live web special as well as a CW/UPN special; "Fashion Forward: Making it." Other specials Zirinsky executive produced include; "That's The Way It Was – Remembering Walter Cronkite; Ted Kennedy: The Last Brother; and "Change and Challenge: The Inauguration of Barack Obama" and "Katie Couric's 'All Access' Grammy Special." She also produced the documentary series "The Injustice Files" for ID Discovery; and the CBS News documentaries "The Lord's Bootcamp"; "In God's Name" and "Flashpoint."

Zirinsky also produced for Showtime the critically acclaimed Emmy nominated documentary, "Three Days in September," which told the story of a school taken hostage in Beslan, Russia. The film was also featured at the Tribeca Film Festival.

She also produced for CBS Entertainment an online companion to the series "Jericho." She was the executive producer of "Elvis by the Presleys," for CBS Entertainment and was the executive producer of a 6 episode reality show for UPN with Britney Spears, "CHAOTIC." Zirinsky executive produced two CW specials for Tyra Banks' "America's Next Top Model."

Before joining 48 HOURS in 1996, she was executive producer of Campaign '96 (1995-96), managing the daily operations of CBS News' election-year political coverage, and of the primetime CBS News magazine, EYE TO EYE (1994-95), after having served as the broadcast's senior broadcast producer and senior producer (1993-94).

Zirinsky was the director of CBS News' 1992 political reporting, responsible for coordinating coverage of candidates, issues and events for all CBS News broadcasts, including the presidential election. During that period, she was CBS News' senior producer at the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, France, where she oversaw the CBS News and Sports news desk for the network.

Earlier, Zirinsky served in several capacities for the CBS EVENING NEWS WITH DAN RATHER in New York and Washington, D.C. In New York, she was its senior broadcast producer (1991-92) and senior producer (1989-91). In Washington, she managed all feature stories and oversaw editorial content of daily hard-news events (1986-89). Zirinsky was CBS' White House producer for more than a decade. She first joined the CBS EVENING NEWS as a producer in 1979.

She also worked on other CBS News broadcasts, including the "CBS Morning News" and CBS EVENING NEWS weekend editions. Zirinsky worked the Democratic and Republican National Conventions from 1976 through 1988 as a floor producer for Dan Rather, Lesley Stahl, Ed Bradley and Mike Wallace. In 1992 she was senior producer for all coverage at both conventions.

Zirinsky's international news experience is extensive. She traveled overseas with presidents Carter and Reagan. Her assignments have taken her to Russia, China, Japan, Europe, Central and South America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In 1989, Zirinsky ran CBS News' operations out of Panama during the United States invasion of that country and was in charge of CBS News' operation in Beijing during the Tiananmen Square student uprising and military crackdown. Earlier that year, she was lead producer for CBS News' coverage from Japan of Emperor Hirohito's funeral. She was the senior producer responsible for setting up and overseeing the Network's news operation in Kuwait while covering the first Persian Gulf War, and it was under her stewardship that CBS News was the first network to enter Kuwait, just behind the Allied forces.

Zirinsky was technical advisor/associate producer for writer/director James L. Brooks on the film "Broadcast News," starring Holly Hunter as a Washington network news producer.

Zirinsky was graduated cum laude from American University in Washington, D.C.